



Durham Year In Review 2005

The Power of Partnerships

Every year, under the guidance of the elected City Council, City employees and many private citizens work together toward the mission of making Durham “a leading City in providing an excellent and sustainable quality of life.” What does that mean? It means that everything we do is based on ensuring that:

- All Durham citizens are safe.
- Every citizen in Durham has access to adequate, safe and affordable housing.
- Durham enjoys a prosperous economy.
- Durham citizens enjoy sustainable, thriving neighborhoods with efficient and well-maintained infrastructure.
- Durham citizens enjoy a City rich in aesthetic beauty.
- Durham citizens enjoy a vibrant City that embraces and promotes its cultural diversity and heritage.
- Durham citizens enjoy an efficient and accountable City government.

City employees, citizens and business have formed a true partnership over the past year to help boost our economy, improve our neighborhoods and decrease crime rates. Durham stayed on course in 2005 as we worked toward achieving our mission.

More Than 2,000 City of Durham Employees Work Every Day To:



Neighborhood Night Out



World Changers



Neighborhood College



After-School Programs

Make Our Communities Safer

■ In 2005, the Department of Housing and Community Development removed 63 vacant, abandoned and unsafe structures within the City for an increase of 48 percent over 2004 totals. Of the 63 unsafe structures, 44 percent were removed as a result of enforcement of the minimum housing code. Housing's Community Relations Team also assisted in the relocation of 22 households living in homes that did not meet minimum housing codes.

■ The City's Weed and Seed Program and Office of Economic and Employment Development teamed with the North Carolina Department of Correction for REPAIR (Reentry Entrepreneurial Partnerships Aimed at Individual and Community Restoration), a program that provides ex-offenders with basic carpentry skills. REPAIR graduated two classes with 18 participants.

■ The Durham Police Department provided numerous intervention activities through the Turning Point Gang Initiative and Project Safe Neighborhoods. The programs include the Anti-Gang Program, providing after-school programming for more than 60 at-risk youth.

■ Through a new partnership with local universities, police, and the Parks and Recreation Department, Project Safe Neighborhoods built a comprehensive program for high-risk youth in danger of becoming involved in gangs or other criminal activities. More than 120 youth participated in the program.

■ Partnerships with apartment com-

munities resulted in the first Hispanic Neighborhood Watch program and Spanish language neighborhood signs.

■ The Citizens Observer Patrol, which increases citizen involvement in crime prevention, celebrated its second anniversary. The patrol logged more than 1,640 hours and made more than 2,383 citizen contacts.

Enhance Neighborhoods with Recreation, Reliable Infrastructure and Safe, Affordable Housing

■ The Code Enforcement Nuisance Abatement Team (CENAT), Human Relations, Housing and Community Development, Solid Waste and the Police Department partnered to conduct a Landlord Training Program for nearly 100 Durham landlords or property managers.

■ The Community Relations Team met with residents of numerous low income neighborhoods to identify property owners; form neighborhood associations; and promote and coordinate health fairs, community days, job fairs, seminars, and workshops.

■ For the first time, the City awarded more than \$85,000 to increase the number and quality of emergency shelters and transitional facilities to help prevent homelessness in Durham.

■ Housing and Community Development helped 48 individuals become homeowners with assistance from bond and HOME funds and prepared more than 300 people for home ownership in the future.

■ The City/County Inspections

Department issued more than 26,000 permits in 2005, the highest number in the past 15 years.

Support and Prepare Durham's Youth for the Future, While Directing Them Into Productive Activities

■ Through a grant from the Fox Family Foundation, the Police Department's "One Day" Program provides resources for officers to provide educational assistance, athletic programs and career-learning opportunities at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

■ The Parks and Recreation Department established a low-ropes course at the Spruce Pine Lodge, a cornerstone of its adventure programs for at-risk youths.

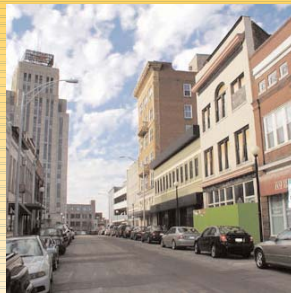
■ The T.A. Grady Neighborhood Center was officially reopened in November. The after-school program is serving 25-30 children, with several community activities established at the center.

■ The Durham Youth Council, a 30-member advisory group from grades 6-12, committed to serving on City boards and commissions when appointed and are completing 10 hours of community service during their one-year term.

■ Businesses and universities throughout Durham joined with the City in providing employment for more than 300 youth through the Mayor's Youth Works Summer Program. This partnership gives Durham youth the opportunity to gain summer employment and learn marketable skills.



Front Porch Neighbors



Parrish Street



Earth Day



Downtown Development

Enhance our City's Appearance

■ The City's Department of Housing and Community Development provided the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition with \$50,000 in community development block grant funds to subsidize material for the World Changers Youth Volunteers to provide minor home repairs to 25 elderly households.

■ Keep Durham Beautiful teamed with Housing and Community Development, Solid Waste, General Services, and local businesses to begin the Front Porch Neighbors Program to help Durham's elderly and disabled citizens with minor home repairs. GlaxoSmithKline sponsored the initial outing where GSK employees provided repairs for porches and wheelchair ramps.

■ Keep Durham Beautiful was also certified as a national affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and received the Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Award, recognizing the effort made by affiliates to reduce litter, minimize waste, and beautify and improve the community.

■ The Department of Water Management received a 2005 Golden Leaf Award for excellence in design at the Williams Water Treatment Plant. The award cited the department for raising community awareness of the value of good appearance and stewardship.

■ The City/County Planning Department revised Durham's 30-year-old development ordinances into a new Unified Development Ordinance that more accurately reflects the area's needs as we prepare for future growth.

Make Excellent Customer Service the Standard to Ensure Efficiency and Accountability

■ The Department of Technology Solutions continues implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning program to enhance efficiency in financial and personnel operations in the City.

■ The City, County and citizens published their first progress report specifying indicators for measuring progress on a Community-Wide Results Based Accountability Project.

■ Durham One Call (DOC) attained a customer service satisfaction rating to 85 percent and answered more than 200,000 calls in 2005.

■ The City's AAA bond rating was affirmed twice during 2005 and was a key element in the passage of the general obligation bond package in November. The Finance Department also received the City's first award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Continue Strengthening Economic and Workforce Development to Boost Our Economy

■ The changing face of Durham continues as a \$10.5 million streetscape project takes shape in downtown.

■ An interpretive plan was approved to develop the Parrish Street "Museum Without Walls," celebrating the heritage of the area once known nationally as "Black Wall Street." Work is slated to begin in 2006.

■ The Department of Equal Opportunity/ Equity Assurance began a Mentor-Protégé Program to offer support to small, disadvantaged construction businesses to enhance their ability to perform quality work at competitive prices. Three firms will graduate in March.

■ Business development projects came at a rapid pace as firms such as Motricity, Smith Breeden and Associates, Inc., and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants making plans to call Durham home.

Voters Say "Yes" To Durham Bonds



Durham, led by Nathan and Wanda Garrett and Cynthia Brodhead, took the lead in advocating for the passage of the bonds.

The citizens of Durham gave a resounding "Yes" to a \$110 million general obligation bond referendum aimed at repairing the City's parks, public facilities, and roadways. This was a true partnership with a citizens' advisory committee playing a primary role in the selection of the bond projects. A citizens' group, 8 Bonds for a Better



Durham City Council 2006

Left to right sitting: Mayor Pro Tem Cora Cole-McFadden;
Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell; Diane Catotti
Standing: Howard Clement, III; Eugene Brown, Mike Woodard;
Thomas Stith, III

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www.durhamnc.gov

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Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9 p.m.
on Time Warner Cable channel 8.